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# An Ecumenical Conference on Foreign Missions

REPRESENTING THE PROTEST-  
ANT MISSIONARY SOCIETIES  
AND MISSIONS OF THE WORLD

will be held in New York City, April 21 to May 1,  
1900. This is the direct successor of Conferences  
in London, 1888, and Mildmay, 1878.



**ECUMENICAL.**—As the early Church opened the first missionary century with an assembly at Antioch to hear Paul and Barnabas, so the later Church, at the close of this greatest of all missionary centuries will hold a Conference with its mission workers in the metropolis of a continent of which the Apostles knew nothing.

The historical term ecumenical, or “world-embracing,” will be even more applicable to this gathering than to the great Councils of the Church, for in it will be represented the entire habitable globe. It will be distinctively

foreign missionary. Its topic will be "The Evangelization of the Nations"; its discussions will bear upon the problems arising in the conduct of the work and its personnel will include workers from every field.

It will be a Conference—not a Council. It will lay down no laws and settle no methods. The workers in many lands will come together to compare notes. There will be free interchange of ideas and much information of great value will be put at the service of all.

The results expected are: A clearer apprehension of the principles and methods of mission work drawn from a century of experience—A vindication of Christian Missions by an array of testimony as to their influence and results that will convince all thoughtful men of their utility and power—A great practical advance toward unity—"That they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me."

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## **Preparation**

*"God be merciful unto us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us; that Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations."*

HOW shall we prepare for the Ecumenical Conference so as to reap the largest results, so that we may meet "in the fullness of the blessing of the Gospel of Christ?"

The Conference does not begin April 21, 1900. That is simply the bringing to a head of the Conference which has already begun. The preparation should not be confined to what is done by committees and writers of papers and

the delegates; it should be a threefold preparation by the whole Church, by prayer, by study, by contributions—

**Prayer.** A concert of prayer each month for the “fullness of the blessing of the Gospel of Christ,” repeated in church services and family worship, that the Church may receive a mighty impulse through the Ecumenical Conference.

**Study.** A new and intelligent study of the great problems relating to the extension of Christ’s Kingdom throughout the world: The relation of the different forms of work to the central purpose of preaching the Gospel.—The Unity, Harmony and Co-operation of the different organizations working in the same fields.—The development of self-support and self-activity on the part of the Native Church. These three principles must be applied intelligently in order to a comprehension of the ways and means of Missionary Economics.

**Contributions.** As every Evangelical denomination is invited to be represented at the Conference, every congregation has the privilege of contributing something towards the general expenses. It is thought that the sum of five dollars, which will not be burdensome to most churches, will accomplish this object and provide, without further cost, for the sending of a copy of the Report, to be issued in two volumes, to every congregation thus contributing.

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## ***Plan of Meetings***

The Conference will be formally opened Saturday afternoon, April 21, with a meeting in the main hall, at which addresses of welcome will be made and the delegates introduced; and will close with a farewell meeting on Tuesday evening, May 1.

On the **Two Sabbaths** a large number of stirring missionary addresses will be given by members of the Conference in the Churches of New York and vicinity. It is possible that there may also be special Conference services on Sabbath afternoons in the main hall.

**Delegates' Meetings** in the mornings, attended by the whole body of delegates, will be held in the main hall, to consider the fundamental principles and discuss the chief departments of mission work.

**Specialists' Meetings** in the afternoon will be held in smaller halls for more technical and detailed discussion of topics appealing especially to workers along specific lines.

Each topic will be presented in a carefully prepared paper not to exceed twenty minutes in the reading, the remainder of the time being devoted to discussion by speakers, who have sent in their names in advance, who will be strictly limited to five minutes each. Those taking the leading parts in these discussions will be experts in their several departments, who are selected with reference to their knowledge of and experience in specific phases of missionary activity. Every effort will be made to secure the very best, and the result will be a consensus of testimony of the highest value.

**Public Meetings** will be held in the afternoons and evenings. At these the most prominent speakers and workers from all parts of the world will vividly portray the conquests of the cross in all lands, the appalling state of the heathen world, the need of unity and co-operation and of an understanding of the problems involved in the task of disciplining the nations.

**Other Cities.** It is expected that meetings will be held in other cities and in the colleges, both preceding and following the Conference, addressed by speakers from abroad.

**Constituency.** All the Evangelical Protestant Societies conducting Foreign Missions to Unevangelized Peoples in the World and all Missionaries so employed. This would not include Missions in Europe or United States of America and Canada. Each society is invited to appoint at least two delegates, and while all Missionaries and all persons from abroad accredited as representatives by their Societies will be received as delegates, the limitations of such a gathering will make it necessary to apportion the representation among the Societies in the United States and Canada upon some equitable basis.

**Hospitality.** New York City and Vicinity will bear the pleasant burden of entertaining the delegates to the Conference and of arranging for their comfort and enjoyment. It is expected that hospitality will be provided for all the delegates from abroad. Those coming from the United States and Canada will be provided for so far as practicable.

**Public Receptions.** The plans provide for a public reception for the delegates, attended by the President of the United States and others in high position, representing the Christian Church, the Government, Judiciary, Army and Navy, Law, Letters, and Business.

**Report.** The great addresses and the summary of the discussions will be contained in the general report of the Conference to be issued within one hundred days of its adjournment. This ought to be in the hands of every Christian Pastor and Student of missionary work in the world who wishes light on the problems of missions and testimony as to the power of the Gospel in uplifting fallen humanity and establishing a new social order in the world. It will be published in two volumes at \$2.50 and sent to all subscribing prior to May 1, 1900, at \$1.70. Post paid, \$2.00.

# ***General Summary of Programme***

[Tentative outline of topics without arrangement as to order and time.]

## ***Authority and Purpose of Foreign Missions.***

The Reason for Foreign Missions. The Authority of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Office of the Holy Spirit. Scriptural Idea and Examples. Their Place in the History of God's Kingdom on Earth. Co-operative Forces in Missions. Supreme and Determining Aim in Foreign Missions.

## ***Consecration of the Church to Foreign Missions.***

Enthronement of the Missionary Idea in the Church, in the Training of Children at Home, in Sunday-school Instruction, in Church Services, by Concert of Prayer for Missions, by the Study of Missions in Theological Seminaries, and by the Possible Power of the Pastor in Awakening and Sustaining the Missionary Spirit.

## ***Support of Missions by Home Churches.***

Reflex Influence of Foreign Missions on Contributing Churches, Christian Stewardship, Consecration of Wealth and Influence, Systematic Beneficence, Ways and Means of Securing Funds, Legitimate and Illegitimate Appeals. How shall the Constituency of Each Board be Guarded? Special Appeals, How Far Desirable? Deputation Work by Missionaries on Furlough. Auxiliary Societies. Missionary Magazines and Literature.

## ***Relation of Students and other Young People to Foreign Missions.***

The Student Volunteer Movement, Achievements, Position and Significance. How to Fire the Future Ministry with the Missionary Spirit. Organized Movements Among the Young People of the Church. How to Utilize Them in Forwarding the Missionary Enterprise. The Responsibility of the Church Toward Volunteers. The Peculiar Obligations and Opportunities of this Generation.

## ***Administration.***

Missionary Boards and Societies. Their Organization. Their Relations to Missions and Missionaries. Interdenominational Conferences. Deputational Visits. Government by Missions. Importance of Strong Central Stations. Conferences on the Field. Supplemental Aid—Reduced Rates of Transportation, Co-operation of Officials and Civilians, Government Grants. Kind of Reports Required. Importance of Uniform Statistics. Treasury Topics.

# ***Survey of Christian Missions***

## ***Review of One Hundred Years of Mission Work.***

The Century of Missions Just Closed, its Triumphs, Occupation of Strategic Points, Expansion of the Problem and Development of Methods, with a Statistical Summary, Showing the Leavening Influence of Missions Upon the World ; the Contributory Results to Geography, Science, Commerce, Diplomacy and Colonization. The Superintending Providence of God ; and the Wonderful Opening by Prayer and Faith of Long Sealed Doors.

## ***Survey of Fields.***

Each Field will be Surveyed in its Past History and Present Conditions with a Review of the Work of Christian Missions, the Development of the Native Church and Christian Institutions. A Consideration of the Chief Problems Involved in the Effort to Evangelize Each Country, and the Outlook and Demands for the Coming Century. Countries—Japan, China, Korea, India, Burma, Siam, Turkey, Syria, Persia and Arabia, Oceania, Africa, America, North, Central and South. Missions to the Jews.

## ***Missionary Exhibit.***

In order to vividly present, through the eye, the social and moral conditions of the peoples among whom missionaries are laboring, their appearance and customs and natural surroundings, together with the changes resulting from a hundred years of missionary effort, there will be the most complete Missionary Exhibit probably ever collected. This Exhibit will be a combined Library and Museum, and will comprise Publications of all kinds in English and many other languages ; Maps and Charts, Pictures, Models, Curios in dress and workmanship, and objects of religious worship ; all intended to illustrate the actual surroundings of the Missionary in his work.

## ***Special Topics.***

The Bible and Christian Literature in Mission Fields. Relation of Foreign Missions to Social Progress and the Peace of the World. Special Providential Demands of Foreign Missionary Enterprise on English Speaking, German, French, Scandinavian, and Other Peoples. The Present Situation and Outlook and Demands for the Coming Century.

Non-Christian Religions. Attitude Towards. Religious Condition of India. Ethical System of China and Japan. Mohammedanism. Apologetic Problems of Missions.

## ***Principles and Agents***

### ***Comity and Division of Fields.***

Need of Unity and Co-operation in Mission Work. Influence of Foreign Missions in Bringing This About. Dangers to be avoided by Mutual Understanding and Division of Field. Necessity for Economy in the Face of the Apalling State of the Heathen World and the Great Unoccupied Fields. Principles and Application of Comity in the Readjustment of Fields, in Co-operation and Common Rules, and in the Employment of Native Workers. Report of Committee on Comity and Unoccupied Fields Showing What Form of Agreement and Co-operation Will Be Accepted by the Different Societies, with Testimony as to the Results of Comity and the Effect in Different Fields of the Lack of It.

### ***Self-Support by Native Church.***

As a Principle in Mission Work. As Determining Methods Employed. The Encouragement of Activity on the Part of Native Converts and their Consecration to the Extension of the Kingdom of Christ. Their Voluntary Work in Preaching and Teaching and Contributing Money to the Cause. Dangers Incident to the Use of Money. Need of Insight and Patience. Importance to Development of Spiritual Life and Extension of the Work to Regions Beyond. Report of Committee, Followed by Testimony From All the Fields of the Missionary Activity of the Native Church.

### ***Native Agency.***

Its Importance and Relations to the Foreign Arm of the Service. Different Forms of Native Service. Preachers, Teachers, Colporteurs, Medical Assistants, etc. Methods of Securing and Training Native Teachers. The Native Pastorate, When to be Established and How? When is a Native Church Ripe for Self-government so that Responsible Supervision of Evangelistic Work and Churches and Schools Can Be Devolved Upon Native Leaders?

### ***Missionaries and Candidates.***

Care in the Selection of Missionary Candidates. Their Preparation. Special Fitness for Special Work. Need of Their Thoroughly Understanding What They Are Going Into. Missionaries' Salaries, Allowances and Furloughs. Limited or Life Service? Unmarried in Initial Years of Services? Mastering Vernacular. Reports and Correspondence. Right Relation to Diplomacy and the Government Where Laboring. Attitude of Missionary Toward Other Religions. Pagan Faiths, Mohammedanism, Non-Evangelical Forms of Christianity.

## ***Departments of Work***

The various forms of work will be discussed in their relation to the supreme and determining aim of missions and the proportion and utility of each in conserving that aim, the qualifications of workers in each department and the social problems involved.

### ***Evangelistic Work.***

Manner and Form of Presenting the Gospel to Non-Christian Peoples. Itineration and Chapel Preaching. Personal Conversations. Dealing with Converts. Development of Native Church. General Gatherings. Training of Workers. Relation of the Native Church to Particular Forms of Evil—Caste, Slavery, Intemperance, Foot-binding, Widowhood, Opium, Polygamy.

### ***Educational Work.***

Including Primary, Secondary and Higher Education. Day and Boarding Schools, Manual and Industrial Training and the Teaching of English. Place of Education in Christian Missions. Necessity for Training in Teaching in Missionary Work. Christian Schools as a Means of Developing Purpose and Activity. Preparation of Teachers. Employment of Non-Christian Teachers. Is it Desirable to Have in Each Mission Field a College or University Wholly Under Foreign Control and Support? How Far Can Mission Schools be Made Self-supporting? Bible Study. Proportion of Devotional Element and Religious Instruction. Personal Work.

### ***Literary Work.***

Christian Literature, its Variety and Importance. Mastery of the Vernacular Indispensable to Those Engaged in Literary Work. The Translation of the Bible. Preparation of Books in the Vernacular, Papers, School Books, Magazines. History and Extent in Different Countries. Mission Presses and Management of Printing.

### ***Medical Work.***

Relation to Mission Work as a Whole. Practical Proofs of its Value. Qualifications for. Dispensaries and Hospitals. Medical Training of Natives. Self-support.

### ***Benevolent Work.***

Orphanages. Famine Relief. Asylums for the Blind, Deaf, Dumb, and Insane.

### ***Women's Work.***

Women's Share in Foreign Missions. Home Department. The Condition of Women in Non-Christian Countries, and Special Efforts in Their Behalf. The Training of Bible Women and the Development of Voluntary Workers. Survey of Woman's Work. Special Conferences on Evangelistic Work. Educational Work, Medical Work, Work for Young Women and Children, Literature and the Financial Problem.

## **Committees**

**The General Committee** is composed of representatives of the Foreign Mission Boards and Societies in the United States and Canada connected with the Evangelical Churches. It will constitute the host to welcome the delegates from abroad representing British and Continental Societies.

**The Central Executive Committee** appoints all other Committees, excepting the General Committee, and acts upon their reports. The Executive Committee is composed of the General Chairman and Secretaries, nine elected members and the Chairmen or representatives of the other Committees.

**The Programme Committee** will prepare the programme and appoint the writers and speakers.

**The Popular Meetings Committee** will utilize speakers attending the Conference in Mass Meetings in the Churches in New York and Vicinity and in Other Cities and Colleges, and hold Preliminary Meetings to awaken interest in the Conference.

**The Statistics Committee** will secure statistics from the Protestant Missionary Societies of the World, such as will fairly represent the growth and results of Christian Missions for the Century just closed.

**The Exhibit Committee** will arrange a Missionary Exhibit setting forth the physical, social and religious characteristics of the races among whom missions are established, including photographs of Missionaries and Native Converts, Churches, Schools and Hospitals, and the Literature of Missions, Maps, Charts, Diagrams, and printed matter of all kinds used in the Home Church by the Boards and Missions, together with the publications in many languages used by the missionaries in their work.

Special Committees have also been constituted upon **Woman's Work** and the **Relation of Students and Young People to Missions**.

## **Committees**

**The Hospitality Committee** will arrange with hotels and boarding houses in the city for the entertainment of delegates at reduced rates; secure such hospitality in private houses as may be voluntarily offered, and inform the Christian public as to the persons who will attend the Conference, so that as many personal invitations may be secured as possible; issue bulletins of information and guide books for the delegates; arrange for lunches and receptions and provide for the general comfort of the delegates at the Hall, including a bureau of information and introduction.

**The Finance Committee** will formulate the plan upon which the funds shall be raised and disbursed, appoint a Treasurer and consider the estimates prepared by the several Committees and present them in total to the Executive Committee with recommendations as to the apportionment to be devoted to each Committee.

**The Transportation Committee** will arrange with steamships and railway companies for reduced rates of fare for the delegates; will appoint a Secretary to whom letters of inquiry may be directed or referred, and will publish a leaflet informing the delegates as to the American system of travel, including the checking and delivery of baggage, the passing of it through the Custom House and the going from the steamships to the places of entertainment.

**The Hall Committee** will secure at an early date options on the largest Halls in the city, and Churches adjacent thereto, with the view to having the Exhibit, Bureau of Information, Lunches, Committee Meetings, and Lobby, centered in one place. It will also appoint the ushers, arrange for tickets of admission, decorations, and music.

**The Publication and Press Committee** will supply information relative to the Conference to the Religious and Secular Press and will have charge of the publication of the Report.

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## “ The Music of the Gospel ”

*Hark, hark, my soul! angelic songs are swelling  
O'er earth's green fields and ocean's wave-beat shore.  
How sweet the truth those blessed strains are telling  
Of that new life when sin shall be no more.*



*And they sang a new song, saying,  
Thou art worthy \* \* for thou wast slain,  
and hast redeemed us to God out of every  
kindred, and tongue and people and nation.*



Glory to God in the Highest, On Earth Peace,  
Good Will to Men.